

have in engineering at Focus: Hope requires a 40-hour workweek, and that is not work-study. It is not work-study * * *. The work they do and the skills they are developing dictate the knowledge they need to draw down. And if the university cannot provide that knowledge, the university is irrelevant. So the knowledge drawdown assimilates knowledge at, as I said earlier, geometric proportions. So the young people there are learning four and five and six times faster than the normal engineering candidate at a major university, simply because they are seeing the relevance of what they are learning in terms of the demands of the workplace.

Mr. President, judging by the testimony provided to the committee during the 3 days of the hearing, Focus: Hope is precisely the type of program we should be attempting to replicate around the country. However, the lesson is not that the Government should dictate that all recipients of Federal dollars exactly mirror Focus: Hope in concept and design, but that the Government seek out programs with a proven track record of success and a proven base of support in their community or region.

This Senator believes the best method for accomplishing this is to get the money into the hands of State and local officials who have a better idea as to which programs are working and where our limited resources are best utilized, that certainly has been the experience in my State of Michigan, where our citizens have had tremendous success under the leadership of Gov. John Engler, in forging a statewide partnership to enact real reform in such areas as job training and welfare.

Once again, let me congratulate Father Cunningham on his appearance before the Senate's Labor and Human Resources Committee and commend him for his fine work at Focus: Hope. It is individuals like Father Cunningham and organizations like Focus: Hope which have made this country great and stand to make a positive difference in our future. We would be wise to offer them our assistance and follow their example.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS HAVE SAID YES

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, anyone even remotely familiar with the U.S. Constitution knows that no President can spend a dime of Federal tax money that has not first been authorized and appropriated by Congress—both the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

So when you hear a politician or an editor or a commentator declare that "Reagan ran up the Federal debt" or that "Bush ran it up," bear in mind that it was, and is, the constitutional duty of Congress to control Federal spending. We'd better get busy correcting this because Congress has failed miserably to do it for about 50 years.

The fiscal irresponsibility of Congress has created a Federal debt which stood at \$4,810,859,576,867.71 as of the close of business Wednesday, February 1. Averaged out, every man, woman, and child in America owes a share of this massive debt, and that per capita share is \$18,262.11.

THE CLINTON BAILOUT OF MEXICO

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, our offices in Washington and North Carolina have been inundated with calls protesting President Clinton's decision to bypass Congress and, more importantly, Mr. Clinton's willingness to ignore the emphatic will of the American people. In any event, that is what Mr. Clinton has done with his unilateral \$20 billion bailout of Mexico.

I have opposed this scheme from the very beginning because it will do nothing to remedy Mexico's internal problem and it is unfair to American taxpayers. Last week, I presided over in-depth hearings by the Foreign Relations Committee. Witness after witness warned the President not to violate the will of the American people in this matter.

Mr. President, if this were as important as the President would have us believe, then Congress should debate the bailout and vote on it, up or down, for or against. Before the taxpayers' money is put at risk, however, the people being forced to foot the bill should have a say. The \$20 billion in question is an enormous amount of money. It is more than the annual budget of the State of North Carolina; it is larger than the annual budgets of 16 of the 18 States represented on the Foreign Relations Committee.

I am not convinced that refusal to bailout Mexico would be the disaster that the administration has described. Many topflight economists say the same. The Mexican people are already suffering, a condition that will improve only with solid political and economic reform, not as the result of a bailout.

Mr. President, on several occasions between 1980 and 1994, Mexico used dollars drawn from a special line of credit at the United States Treasury. The United States has also aided Mexico with bridge loans, bank credits, currency swaps, and guarantees, all to shore up confidence in Mexico. Assistance from Uncle Sam usually has come right around election time in Mexico. Credit lines from the United States and other countries, amounting to as much as \$12 billion, were negotiated twice in the past 15 months alone.

With the exception of last week's hearings narrowly focused on the peso crisis, the Senate has not held hearings on the situation in Mexico since 1986. Since the President is obviously willing to risk saddling the taxpayers with \$20 billion of debt, I believe Congress has a fundamental obligation to examine carefully the political and economic situation in Mexico and the administration's policy toward Mexico.

Mr. President, the Mexican Government has a credibility gap, and for obvious reasons. Just one example: There are some 2,000 United States claimants protesting Mexico's refusal to pay about \$19 billion owed under a little-known 1941 treaty—the Treaty on Final Settlement of Certain Claims—which provided for settlement of longstanding disputed property claims. The United States fully met its obligations by 1948, but Mexico broke its promise. The Mexicans signed the treaty on the dotted line knowing full well that it was never intended that Mexico would compensate these Americans. To this day, not a dime nor a peso has ever been paid to an American claimant.

Mexico doesn't hesitate to break its promises to the United States, much less to violate United States policies. For example: Mexico is giving aid and comfort to Fidel Castro by investing in Cuba's economy, notwithstanding the United States trade embargo. According to Cuba Report, published by the Miami Herald, the Mexicans are financing Cuba's telephone company to the tune of \$1.5 billion. And, by the way, the Cuban phone company is a confiscated United States business. Also, a Mexican-Cuba joint venture will invest \$100 million in a Cuban oil refinery. The dominant member of this venture will be Pemex, the Mexican's Government-owned oil company.

The Mexican Foreign Minister was quoted by the January 27 Financial Times as saying that "the typical U.S. politician is not necessarily someone who is very conscious of international subjects. Even supposing they know where Mexico is * * * they lack information about what happens in Mexico."

Mr. President, this is the same fellow who came to Washington with an outstretched hand pleading for cash.

Mexico's international debt stands at \$180 billion. According to the United States Treasury Department's own estimate, the Mexican debt coming due in 1995 alone—both public and private sector debt—is more than \$80 billion. What Mexico sorely needs is to get at the root causes of its problems so that it will cease to require emergency intervention by the United States taxpayers.

Mr. President, Mexican President Zedillo has a tough road to travel: He must solve the short term economic crisis; provide for a long-term economic stability; end a civil uprising; address corruption; stop drug trafficking, and initiate political reforms. Properly addressing these issues is what's needed to shore-up investor confidence.

Mexico would be better off letting the markets set the value of the peso and Mexican stocks and bonds. The U.S. Government has no business bailing-out private or public investors who lose money on highly speculative investments.

In testimony last week before the Foreign Relations Committee, experts